



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

**HAMPSTEAD MAN SENTENCED OF FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGE
IN RELATION TO MANCHESTER SIBLEY TERRACE SHOOTING**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Manchester Police Chief Mark Driscoll, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Resident Agent in Charge Kraig Hankins announced that Mark CORNETTA, DOB 6/24/81, of Hampstead, New Hampshire was sentenced on January 21, 2003, on federal charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

The indictment against CORNETTA, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, alleged that CORNETTA, a convicted drug trafficker, possessed a loaded handgun and ammunition in Manchester on February 21, 2002. CORNETTA entered a guilty plea to the charge on September 26, 2003.

U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro imposed a sentence of 46 months imprisonment followed by a 3- year period of supervised release during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

The federal charges arose from the Manchester Police Department's investigation of shootings occurring in Manchester's Sibley Terrace neighborhood in February, 2002. CORNETTA admitted firing a .22 caliber handgun at a Sibley Terrace residence on February 21, 2002.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case, against a convicted drug trafficker for illegally possessing a firearm, is precisely the type of case for which the federal firearms laws and Project Safe Neighborhoods are intended. This office will vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire.."

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.